

# Panel Delays Zoning Action For Oakwood

The Raleigh Planning Commission decided Monday to postpone action on a zoning request to restrict apartments in the old downtown Oakwood neighborhood until the city decides whether to build the controversial North-South Expressway.

The commission voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that a study be conducted of possible alternatives to handling downtown traffic other than the expressway.

The expressway has been a controversial project for years because it would run through several downtown residential neighborhoods.

Planning Commission member Benjamin B. Taylor said the commission could not plan properly for the Oakwood neighborhood because the City Council has made no "commitment" to the continued existence of Oakwood and has left the proposed expressway in the city's thoroughfare plan for future construction.

Earlier, commission member Spurgeon Cameron had moved that the commission recommend to the City Council the removal of the North-South Expressway from city road plans.

Cameron said it is "some cold, hard, idiotic planning to leave that in the thoroughfare plan."

But city planning director A. C. Hall advised the commission that rather than recommending outright removal of the freeway from city plans, a study should be conducted on how to handle the anticipated 35,000 commuters per day who would use the proposed freeway.

Cameron withdrew his proposal but said "we have been subverting people" with the proposed freeway. "People are

more important than cars," he told the commission.

The commission will be given a briefing on the Oakwood neighborhood by city planners at a June 10 work session.

Earlier, commission chairman Millard Peebles had asked that commission members evaluate the Oakwood rezoning request in light of the city's effort to revitalize downtown.

At Peebles' request, city planners presented a map of the downtown plan for revitalization which showed high density development in the Oakwood neighborhood.

"In order to revitalize downtown we need more people," Peebles said.

Peebles said higher density development downtown was particularly important because of the energy crisis, since it would reduce commuting.

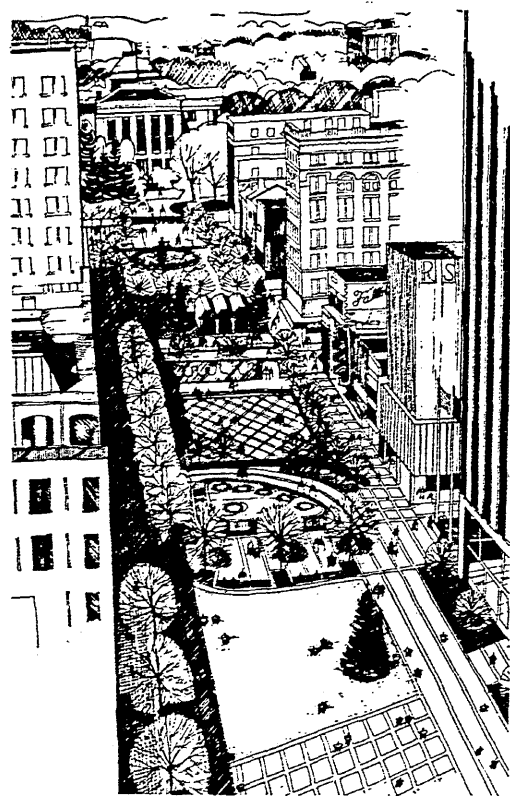
The Oakwood rezoning request, filed by a neighborhood group seeking the preservation and restoration of the neighborhood of Victorian homes, would rezone approximately 102 acres northeast of the Capitol from high density to low density apartment use.

The area is generally bordered by Pace Street on the north, Watauga and Cooke streets on the east, Edenton Street on the south and Person Street on the west.

The rezoning would keep out high rise apartment construction and prohibit the conversion of the large old homes of the area into rooming houses. It would, however, allow a house to be split into two apartments.

Commission member Edward Walters said "a lot of this (Oakwood) is absentee ownership and it keeps running down." Walters said he would support the rezoning request.

—ROB CHRISTENSEN



sketch of proposed mall

## Zoning Action Delayed

The Wake County Board of Commissioners delayed action Monday on a request for mobile home park rezoning in the southeastern part of the county after two commissioners said they wanted to take a look at the site.

The development proposal was submitted by Morris Rowland for a 205-unit park on 45 acres two miles southeast of the McCullers Community between U.S. 401 and Old Stage Road.

The planning board approved it 4-3. Several residents of the area objected, saying there were too many mobile homes in the area.

A vote on the request was postponed until June 3 after Commissioners Elizabeth Coffield and George R. Goodwin said they were unfamiliar with the specific piece of property and wanted to make a personal visit.

# City Mall Planners Present Special Finance Proposal

By ERNIE WOOD  
Staff Writer

Planners of the downtown mall, which by 1976 should transform Fayetteville Street into a 3½-block-long pedestrian plaza, Monday presented proposals for financing their project from city, county and state coffers.

Their proposal includes creating a special tax district downtown to help pay the city's share of the financing. In that district, which includes properties which would benefit most directly from the mall, the tax rate would be increased six cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.

According to the plan, which was drawn up by the Downtown Mall Task Force of the Greater Raleigh Central Area Commission and formally presented to the City Council at its Monday night meeting, funding over the next three years would be in the form of \$600,000 from Wake County, \$600,000 from the state and \$300,000 from the City of Raleigh.

The city and county would pay their shares in installments spread over three years. The state would pay its entire sum during the 1975-76 fiscal year.

The special tax district would pay \$330,000, so the three governmental units each would wind up paying identical sums of \$600,000. Anticipated total

cost for the project is \$2,130,000.

As an example of the impact of the special tax, the task force estimated that the BB&T Building at 333 Fayetteville St. would pay about \$2,284 for the special tax a year and \$33,311 for the regular city tax, based on 1973 rates.

Success of the plan depends in great degree on approval by the City Council.

But even if the council approves, other agencies still could independently adjust their agreements with the task force.

According to the report and the task force's chairman, the County Commissioners have promised to supply their \$600,000 for the job.

The state, however, has not yet made a definite commitment. Task force chairman Leslie A. Pearce said Monday that his group has "pretty good assurance from the state that they're going to work with us on this."

State budget officer Kenneth Howard said, however, that because the request will be included "in the next budget cycle," that his department has not discussed it very much yet. Deliberations so far, he said, have been handled only by the secretary of the Department of Administration working with the mall task force.

Task force chairman Pearce did, however, suggest one more possibility of funding. He said the city's finance section has begun to explore the possibility of federal aid for the mall. But he noted that so far "we don't know what is available."

The plan calls for construction to begin in July 1975 and for the mall to be completed in December 1976.

It would be 3½ blocks long, beginning at the Capitol at the north end of Fayetteville Street and traveling south across Hargett, Martin and Davie streets.

Below Davie Street, it would tie in with the plaza that is to be constructed at the front door of the new civic center.

The east-west streets would remain to provide vehicular access to the mall, though Fayetteville Street itself would cease to exist.

In the first block, the mall would include a commissioned sculpture to "capture some of the historical significance and heritage of the Capital City"

and to form a transition between the Capitol and the mall. Beyond that would be a group of trees and a bus shelter.

A large mural wall with a mural on each side would be at the north end of the block beginning at Hargett Street. Beyond that would be an amphitheatre with a seating capacity for 300 people. To the south would be a fountain followed by grassy space and a clock or bell tower.

South of Martin Street would be another transit stop and grouping of trees and benches defining a shopping area. In front of the County Courthouse would be two rectangular reflecting pools and farther south would be a gazebo.

South of Davie Street, the design will be coordinated with the civic center plaza. Vehicular access will be provided to the front of the Sir Walter Hotel with a driveway from Davie Street.

## Around the City

- SONG** recital by St. Mary's Music Department will be presented at 8 p.m. today in the College Auditorium. The program is free and open to the public.
- OXFORD** College, which was discontinued in 1925, will hold an alumni reunion for all its alumni at noon today at Balentin's Restaurant in Cameron Village.
- CELESTE** Capps and Terry Rhodes will present their senior voice recital at 8 p.m. today at St. Mary's College Auditorium.
- SIR WALTER** Kiwanis Club will meet at 6 p.m. today at the North Hills Cafeteria. Speaker will be Cornelia Olive, editor of the consumer protection newsletter of attorney general's office.
- CENTRAL** Community Task Force will meet at 7:30 p.m. today in the council chambers, Raleigh Municipal Building.
- NORTH RIDGE** Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association will meet at 7 p.m. today at Millbrook High School off Spring Forest Road.



Charles Craven

SHE'S got a face like a cherub and a tongue like a... Well, a tongue like a very spirited cherub.

"I'm not as old as I look," she says, her brown eyes snapping. "I'm older than I look. I remember when sex was a vulgar word and air was clean."

That's Miss Lunette Barber of Rt. 1, Clayton. She worked for the state for 40 years and knows something on everybody else who worked for it then. But she repeats only the best of what she knows of them — their warmth of personality, the generosity of their spirit and the humor that brought their laughter.

First she had a career as a school teacher. "I taught my psychiatrist in high school," she said. Now she tells him, "You've got your references wrong, boy. You never learned anything like that from me."

When she retired, Miss Barber had been working for the Wildlife Commission for years. "I traveled from Mantoo to Murphy giving lectures to school children on conservation of wildlife and all our natural resources. And I'll fight bare-kist for the truck drivers and the State Highway Patrol. I've even had troopers to zip up the back of my dress. They're wonderful."

"And everything I said to those students, from a one-room Indian school in Hoke County to the graduate school at Duke University, came to pass as to the air, clean water, soil... The only way to preserve natural resources is to keep people's hands off them. They use too many paper towels, too much of everything."

Her levity aside, Lunette Barber, who'll whisper in your ear that she's 70, has an abiding



Miss Lunette Barber

interest in history. "I just came from the site of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge," she said. "A beautiful place."

And she came to Raleigh Monday with 97-year-old Robert L. Fitzgerald Sr. of Clayton, who visited with family and friends the Confederate monument in Capital Square. Fitzgerald was present for the dedication of the monument to the Confederate dead on May 20, 1885. Miss Barber is a long-time friend of the Fitzgerald family. In fact she's a long-time friend of all of North Carolina — and an outspoken one.

"There's nothing in Asheville now but the old Grove Park Inn — the rest all motels, motels, motels."

Then she asked: "Do you like turtle? I had a 16-pound turtle the other day... Simply delicious. And a friend from Edenton sent herring..."

Miss Lunette Barber left Capitol Square with this advice: "Love many, trust few, and paddle your own canoe."

# The case of the woman who didn't hit the ceiling when her hospital bill hit \$17,500.



Jessie Whitehead of Halifax. First in a series of actual case histories from the files of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina.

The woman signing for her \$17,500 hospital bill is Jessie Whitehead. If she looks pretty cool it's because she only has to pay \$312 of the hospital bill. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina will take care of everything else.

Mrs. Whitehead's group plan provides for no dollar limit on hospital benefits. So when she suffered a heart attack, there was no dollar ceiling on the amount her Blue Cross and Blue Shield plan would pay. It just kept on paying for the wide variety of expenses necessary to get Mrs. Whitehead back on her feet.

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**MASONIC NOTICE**

A Stated Communication of Raleigh Lodge No. 500, A.F. & A.M., will be held in the Masonic Temple of Raleigh, Inc., 1520 Caswell Street, Raleigh, N.C., on Tuesday, May 21, 1974, at 7:30 p.m. All Master Masons are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

J. Albert Bass Jr., Master  
Norman C. Miller Jr., Secretary

**1827 MASONIC NOTICE 1974**

A stated communication of Millbrook Lodge No. 97 A.F. & A.M. will be held Tuesday evening May 21, 1974 at 7:30 P.M. in the Millbrook Masonic Temple. All Master Masons are cordially invited to attend.

Charles A. Williams, Master  
George W. White, Secretary

**MASONIC NOTICE**

There will be a stated communication of Fuquay Lodge No. 258, A.F. & A.M. Tuesday, evening, May 21, 1974, at 8:00 p.m. Work in the Fellowship Degree. All Master Masons are cordially invited to attend.

Larry Stephenson, Master  
Curtis Holloman, Secretary

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